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Dear Parent or Guardian,

In the 2014-15 school year, Nevada will roll out new assessments that are aligned to the new Nevada Academic Content Standards in English language arts and mathematics. These assessments will be used to gauge how well students are mastering the new higher academic standards. The tests will be administered in grades 3-8 and replace the Nevada Criterion Referenced Tests (CRTs) in reading and math in spring 2015.

Your child's school is one of 234 Nevada schools participating in a field test this spring of the new assessment system to ensure that the testing process runs smoothly when the new tests are administered next year. This means that **your child will take a field test in math or English language arts this spring 2014**, instead of taking the CRT in that field tested subject. Please note, if your child is in the 5th or 8th grade, he or she will take the statewide CRT in science and the Nevada Formative Writing assessment this spring.

The purpose of the field test is to "test the test" and help prepare schools, teachers, and students for full implementation of the new assessments in spring 2015. Because this is a field test, similar to a pilot, no scores will be sent home for your child from the field test. However, taking this field test will still greatly benefit your child because he or she will experience the new computer-based test a year in advance and become more familiar with the different types of questions. Participating in the field test will also give schools an opportunity to prepare for the technological and logistical challenges of the new system. I believe these benefits justify having one year without state test results in these double-tested content areas.

If you would like more information about Smarter Balanced, please visit the Smarter Balanced website at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/. You can also find information about the field test in Nevada at the Nevada Department of Education website: http://www.doe.nv.gov/Smarter-Balanced-Assessment Consortium_SBAC/.

If you have any questions about the field test of the new assessments aligned to Nevada's standards or your child's participation, please contact your school principal.

Respectfully yours,

DALE A.R. ERQUIAGA

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